

Mr. Purnell is indeed a pillar of his community. He was a plaintiff in the historic voting rights lawsuit in Halifax County that resulted in the creation of a district method of election for the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Purnell's friends and family say that dispensing advice is his second profession. He has often been the chief advisor on matters of local importance. His daughter Sonya is insistent that "when my daddy spoke, people listened." Mr. Speaker, that is why this past week, Mr. Purnell was finally recognized for his tremendous work as a local leader. The longtime community activist was honored at a ceremony for the new apartment complex recently completed in the Roanoke Rapids area of my district. At the dedication ceremony the Olde Town Village Apartment Complex Activity Center was named in Mr. Purnell's honor.

Mr. Speaker, I could not imagine a more fitting facility to bear the name of Mr. Purnell than a community activity center in an area where he has been so adamantly committed to raising the quality of life.

I rise both to honor the life and service of Mr. Jettie Purnell and to thank him for his many years of service. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man that has given to his community without ever asking to be recognized. This brief mention is the very least that we can do.

HONORING WILLIAM HARTWIG ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, William "Bill" Hartwig, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Department of Interior. For the past few years Bill has been serving as Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

I first met Bill in 2000 when he was working as the Regional Director for the Midwest Region. Together we embarked on a project unprecedented in America's history: an international sanctuary for birds, plants, and animals of all kinds. Today, Detroit is blessed with the serene beauty of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This 2,100-acre refuge provides Southeast Michigan citizens with a previously unimaginable opportunity to experience the magnificence of a lush habitat for hundreds of protected species close to home. To Bill's eternal credit, this remarkable project would never have been possible without his vision and powerful determination.

Long before becoming one of the Nation's great conservationists, Bill was born in Riverside, CA. Recognizing his life's path early, he graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation. Between WVU and receiving his master's degree in administration from George Washington University in 1976, Bill served in Vietnam where he received Army Commendation Medals and the Bronze Star.

Bill began his work in the Department of the Interior in 1977. Through the course of his illustrious career there, his care for the environment and all its inhabitants touched an incredible variety of issues ranging from land man-

agement to migratory bird conservation. In 1988 he received the Department's Meritorious Service Award and in 1990 was named an "Unusually Outstanding Employee."

Bill Hartwig is a great conservationist and his impact on this country is impressive and profound. I personally thank Bill for his invaluable help in creating the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, and I invite you Mr. Speaker, and all my colleagues, to join me in recognizing Bill for his dedication to the out-of-doors, to conservation, and for his long and distinguished career with the Department of the Interior.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, tonight we should be working to ensure security and peace for Israel and more hope, opportunity and peace for the Palestinian people. Among our colleagues in the U.S. House, there is unanimous intolerance and condemnation for the current Hamas-led government of the Palestinian Authority. The refusal of the political leadership of Hamas to recognize the State of Israel, renounce violence and terrorism, and agree to previous agreements and obligations of the Palestinian Authority is unacceptable and therefore they must continue to be isolated by the international community.

Congress should be here tonight unanimously passing a bill that supports Secretary of State Rice as she leads the international community to keep firm pressure on Hamas until they agree to an internationally recognized civilized standard of conduct. At the same time, Congress should be working to support the Bush administration and the international community to avoid a serious humanitarian crisis among the Palestinian people.

On May 9, 2006, Secretary Rice said as she announced \$10 million of medical assistance to the Palestinian people, "We will continue to look for ways to assist the Palestinian people and will encourage other countries to join us in this effort. We will not, however, provide support to a Hamas-led government that refuses to accept the calls of the Quartet and the broader international community to renounce terror and become a partner for peace."

I strongly support her efforts and it is unfortunate that a bill could not be drafted to come to the floor this evening that was supported by the State Department. The State Department's comment regarding H.R. 4681 is "this bill is unnecessary."

Unfortunately, instead of advancing the U.S. interests, H.R. 4681 does not recognize the three criteria set forth by President Bush—demanded by President Bush and the international community—for Hamas to commence any form of engagement with the U.S. and the international community.

H.R. 4681 sets an elevated threshold which will make U.S. leadership for peace in the Middle East nearly impossible even if Hamas does agree to recognize Israel, does renounce

terrorism and does agree to abide by all previous agreements. The outcome of this bill, if it were to become law, would be to isolate Palestinian leaders who have been committed to advancing the peace process, isolate leaders who have denounced terrorism, and isolate leaders who are working with Israel for peace and a permanent two-state solution.

How does this bill advance U.S. goals in the region? It doesn't.

This bill's real result will be to isolate the U.S. among members of the international community that are working for a peaceful and just solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

One of our partners in isolating Hamas and delivering humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people is the United Nations. A section of this bill calls for withholding a portion of U.S. contribution to the United Nation as if this valuable partner were the enemy. For this bill to target the United Nations—a member of the Quartet—in such a fashion is a clear sign that this bill is intended to undermine the Bush administration's multilateral leadership.

This bill places extreme constraints on the delivery of humanitarian assistance by non-governmental organizations to the Palestinian people. This bill's unnecessary obstacles have the potential for very negative human consequences and would exacerbate a humanitarian crisis. Palestinian families and children must not be targeted for deprivation of their basic human needs by this Congress. Instead let this House ensure that Palestinian families and children will be treated in a fashion that reflects our values and the belief that their lives are valued.

NGOs with significant experience delivering humanitarian assistance have expressed serious concerns that the lack of flexibility in H.R. 4681.

An April 6, 2006 letter from United States Conference on Catholic Bishops to Chairman Hyde expressing concerns regarding the substitute amendment to H.R. 4681 states, "the legislation should provide for the urgent needs of the Palestinian people. A further deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people compromises human dignity and serves the long term interests neither of Palestinians nor of Israelis who long for a just peace."

In its present form, this bill will not allow NGOs to properly carry out the very assistance determined to be necessary by Secretary Rice—ensuring suffering and misery among the Palestinian people.

Finally, my opposition to H.R. 4681 is based on policy grounds that reflect my support for a Middle East peace process which will ultimately yield security and freedom from terrorism for the State of Israel and the Israeli people, as well as a democratic, secure and peaceful state for the Palestinian people.

H.R. 4681, will result in no greater security or opportunities for peace than exist today with current law and the administration's present policy course. But this bill may in fact have the result of fueling a humanitarian crisis. Passing this bill undermines U.S. interests and has potential long-term negative consequences for the Israeli people and the Palestinians.

Later this week, in this chamber, we will be honored by the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. In an interview last week, Premier Olmert said the Palestinians

"are the victims of their own extremist, fundamentalist, religious, inflexible and unyielding leadership, and we will do everything in our power to help these innocent people . . . We will pay if necessary out of our own pockets. We wouldn't allow one baby to suffer one night because of a lack of dialysis. We care," Olmert said. "We want to save their lives."

I wish to strongly associate myself with the honest and courageous comments of the Prime Minister and his desire for security, peace and the value of human life.

I oppose H.R. 4681 because this is a missed opportunity to keep the pressure on Hamas, ease the suffering among the Palestinian people and ensure that Israel is secure and without a humanitarian crisis on its doorstep. Current U.S. law already prohibits funds from going to Hamas because it is a foreign terrorist organization. As the State Department says, "this bill is unnecessary."

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. Let us send a message to the people of Israel and the Palestinian people that the U.S. Congress has not given up working for security, peace, and a better future in the Middle East.

Let us oppose and isolate Hamas—and let us also work for peace and a generation of Israeli and Palestinian children who know no violence, only hope.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4681.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ARTHUR JACKSON, III CELEBRATING HIS 15TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Miami's great spiritual leaders, Pastor Arthur Jackson, III, of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Carol City, which is located in my Congressional District.

Pastor Jackson came to his calling through the love and influence of both his father, the late Rev. Arthur Jackson, Jr., and his mother, Mrs. Arthur Jackson. Spiritually, God has lifted and anointed him to preach the gospel to the wounded, lost, and broken. Ask any of Pastor Jackson's thousands of congregants what they most like about him, and you are likely to hear, "He is real!" He relates to his flock in an honest and genuine way that brings out the best in people. During the hurricane season, for example, Pastor Jackson sent his deacons out to check on the elderly, to make sure that their houses were properly boarded up before the storm and afterwards, to make sure they had food and water and any other help they may have needed.

During Pastor Jackson's tenure at Antioch, the church has gone through a complete spiritual, financial, and structural metamorphosis. In December of 1996, the Congregation purchased surrounding lots and broke ground for a new structure—a \$2 million building that was consecrated in August 1998. After only seven years, the congregation had already paid off their multi-million dollar mortgage.

A man of character, integrity and wisdom, Pastor Jackson's consistent obedience to God has taken the Antioch congregation from the "Faithful Fifty" members, to a blossoming min-

istry of nearly 6,000 members. Pastor Jackson serves God and his community through the ministries he has nurtured. I congratulate Reverend Jackson on his Pastoral Anniversary and extend best wishes to him, his wife, Jacquaneise, and their daughter, Jaden.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE DELBERT EARL WONG MAY 17, 1920–MARCH 10, 2006

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loving family man and eminent jurist who worked tirelessly to protect the rights of ordinary Americans throughout our country, Judge Delbert Earl Wong, who passed away Friday, March 10, 2006.

Delbert Wong rose from humble means, and it was this experience that led him to dedicate his considerable talents to serving the public. Born May 17, 1920, in Hanford, CA, to a Chinese-American mother and Chinese immigrant father, Delbert encountered great adversity and discrimination early in his life. His mother, born in Weaverville, CA, lost her American citizenship for the simple act of marrying Delbert's father in 1919. Unable to own land and forced to apply for citizenship due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, his parents' experiences would embolden Delbert and instill in him a commitment to justice and equality.

Raised in Bakersfield, CA, Delbert attended Bakersfield College where he received an associate of arts degree. After transferring to the University of California at Berkeley, he graduated with a bachelor's degree and also met his future wife, Dolores Wing. Upon graduating from U.C. Berkeley, Delbert heeded the call to serve his country and enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as a navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress. Completing 30 missions over Europe, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1945 following the end of the war, Delbert enrolled in Stanford Law School, breaking barriers of discrimination as the school's only student of color. After being admitted to the State Bar of California in 1948, Judge Wong began his career working for the Office of the Legislative Counsel in Sacramento. He later transferred to the Office of the Legislative Counsel in Los Angeles, where he was one of two Chinese-American lawyers in all of Southern California. In 1951 he joined the Office of the California State Attorney General. There, he served as the first Chinese-American deputy attorney general under then Attorney General Pat Brown. When Pat Brown was elected governor, he appointed Delbert to the bench in 1959, making him the first Chinese-American judge in the United States.

Delbert Wong became a judge because of his deep commitment to justice, equality, and civil rights; ideas that he fought for throughout his entire life. He served on the bench during the tumultuous decades of the 1960s and 1970s when these issues dominated public debate with the social upheaval surrounding both the Vietnam war and the civil rights movement. Hearing cases involving free speech and assembly, employment discrimination, and school desegregation, Judge Wong

was at the forefront of some of the most important court decisions of that era.

Judge Wong's professional achievements were extraordinary, as was his love for family and community. Together, Dolores and Delbert raised four children: Kent, Shelley, Duane and Marshall. Though Judge Wong retired from the bench in 1982 after 23 years of service, his role in public service continued as a private arbitrator and community leader, roles he would hold until the end of his life. He was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley to a panel that authored the city of Los Angeles's first ethics code, and also led an investigation into charges of racial discrimination in employment at the Los Angeles International Airport Police Bureau. Delbert was a key supporter of the Asian-Pacific American Legal Center and the Chinatown Service Center. He is fondly remembered by his family for making breakfast for his children each morning and serving as a Boy Scout leader. Judge Wong overcame great odds to serve his country, opening doors for countless others; but even more importantly, he did so while maintaining a sincere commitment to loving and supporting his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sorrow, yet great admiration and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Judge Delbert Earl Wong, a devoted husband, father, public servant and community leader. May his passionate dedication to opening doors for others and service to this country be remembered and give birth to the next generation of champions for justice.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD HELLMAN, M.D.

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this recent election of Kansas City metro area resident Richard Hellman, MD, FACP, FACE, as President-Elect of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, at its Fifteenth Annual Meeting and Clinical Congress in Chicago on April 29, 2006. Since 1999, he had served on the AACE Board of Directors.

Dr. Hellman has been privately practicing with a focus on diabetes mellitus and endocrinology in Kansas City, Missouri, since 1981; he is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology. He is a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, School of Medicine and is the past president of the Metropolitan Medical Society of Greater Kansas City, a current member of the Health Commission of Kansas City and chair of their Patient Safety Task Force.

He graduated from the Chicago Medical School and completed all of his post-graduate training at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Hellman is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society. He is also the medical director of the Heart of America Diabetes Foundation.

A methodology and data expert for the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, Dr. Hellman is also a member of their executive committee and co-chairs their implementation work group. The Consortium is convened by the American Medical Association